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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. COLLINS of Georgia].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 2, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable MAC COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, office of the bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

The Psalmist prays:

*The heavens declare the glory of God,
And the firmament shows his handiwork.*

Oh God, we can recognize Your presence in that which is about us; intricacies of nature in flowers and in fragrance; diversity in people in size and shape; variety of animals in habits and habitats; and beauty of the night skies in the Southern Cross and the dippers, large and small.

Oh God, as we recognize Your presence, so let us honor that presence, by taking care of all that in nature we so glibly call our own; by protecting that which we have dominion over; by giving consideration to people's differences of both opinion and interests; and by offering our thanks for both Your grace and Your mercy as we, each one, seek justice for all.

Oh God, dispose our days and our deeds in Your peace. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BALLENGER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3734) "An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain five 1-minute speeches from each side.

CONGRESSMAN BUNN OF OREGON DESERVES APOLOGY FROM SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR BABBITT

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, the Associated Press on July 30 of this year quoted Secretary of the Interior Babbitt as follows:

There are a lot of people, like Congressman Bunn, who want to shut down the national park system, dissolve the national forest lands, and convey away all the public land.

I just want to say for the record that the gentleman from Oregon, Congressman BUNN, serves with me on the subcommittee on appropriations responsible for funding national parks, for funding national forests, and for funding Federal public lands.

The facts are as follows: Congressman BUNN has supported, as a member of this subcommittee, increased funding for all of these functions: parks, forests, and public lands. At no time has he suggested that we close parks or that we dissolve national forest lands into private ownership, or that we convey away the public lands owned by the people of this Nation.

Statements such as the one made by Secretary Babbitt do a great disservice to truth and facts. Congressman BUNN deserves an apology.

GAIL DEVERS; SAN DIEGO'S OLYMPIC HERO

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, Americans in every corner of this great Nation let out a collective cheer last Saturday as Gail Devers won her second straight Olympic gold medal in the 100 meters.

Everyone in San Diego County, CA, is familiar with Gail's achievements. A graduate of Sweetwater High School in National City, Devers became only the second woman in history to win consecutive gold medals in the 100 meters.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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